

✓ Bundy

MFG 11-63

Case # NL 96-111

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

COUNTRY LAOS

SEC. WATCH OFFICE

DATE OF INFO. EARLY OCTOBER 1964

DISTR. 9 OCTOBER 1964

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A "FALSE COUP" BY GENERAL PHOUMI, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUA, AND THE LAO KING

PLACE & DATE ACQ. EARLY OCTOBER 1964

REF IN

SOURCE

FIELD REPORT NO.

AND APPRAISAL:

APPRaisal: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GENERAL PHOUMI MADE THE STATEMENTS REPORTED; WHETHER A "FALSE COUP" WAS CONSIDERED BY THE LAO OFFICIALS IS UNKNOWN.

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

1. SHORTLY AFTER HIS MEETINGS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON GENERAL PHOUMI STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH THEM THE PROBLEMS FACING THE NEUTRALIST-CONSERVATIVE COALITION UPON THE EXPIRATION ON 7 OCTOBER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL POWERS, AND AGAIN IN APRIL 1965 WHEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FIVE-YEAR TERM EXPIRES. PHOUMI SAID THAT HE DISCUSSED A QUASI-CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS, BUT THAT HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE "FALSE COUP D'ETAT," AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN WHICH HE, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND THE KING HAVE IN FACT DISCUSSED AND WHICH THE LATTER TWO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY.

2. THE ALTERNATE PLAN WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE LAO ARMED FORCES WOULD STAGE A PEACEFUL BUT RAPID TAKE-OVER OF VIENTIANE,

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DISSOLVE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND APPEAL TO PHOUMI TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PLAN, PHOUMI WOULD DECLINE AND THE COUP LEADERS WOULD
THEN ASK SOUVANNA TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. SOUVANNA WOULD ACCEPT.

3. FIELD DISSEM: CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE

1.5(c)
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